VIDEO JACK 4
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MAY 1988
EPIC COMICS
VIDEO
JACK
TM

A Toker The Kid Scan

EPIC COMICS

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editor
MARGARET CLARK

editor in chief
ARCHIE GOODWIN

HI, *VIDEO JACK* FANS. Y'KNOW, I USUALLY FEEL LIKE A JERK IN THESE EDITORIALS BECAUSE OF THE STUPID COSTUMES AND WEIRD SITUATIONS I'M FORCED INTO TO PLUG THE LATEST STORY DEVELOPMENTS. WELL, ***NOT*** THIS TIME! THIS ISSUE I'M ***UP*** FOR IT! THIS ISSUE I EAVESDROPPED ON CO-CREATORS ***CARY BATES*** AND ***KEITH GIFFEN*** AND EDITOR ***MARGARET CLARK*** AND OVERHEARD THAT JACK VISITS A TV REALITY BASED ON A GREAT ***SCI-FI ALIEN ADVENTURE*** FLICK! CAN ONLY BE ***ONE*** FILM, RIGHT? YEAH, IT'S ***MY*** FAVORITE TOO AND FEATURES A FABULOUS FEMALE TALENT I'M ***DYING*** TO MEET! SO...

LIVE FROM EPIC COMICS! IT'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ARCHIE GOODWIN IN THE ***VOYAGE OF THE ROCK ALIENS*** REALITY STARRING ***PIA ZADORA!***

HEY, PIA! WHERE ***ARE*** YOU, BABE? COME ON OUT AND ***JOIN*** ME HERE AT THE OVERHEAD MIKE!

PSSSST! ARCHIE...! ***ARCHIE...!***..YOU DIDN'T EAVESDROP ***ENOUGH!*** THIS MOVIE DOESN'T INVOLVE ***ROCK*** ALIENS...AND THAT ***ISN'T*** AN OVER-HEAD MIKE!

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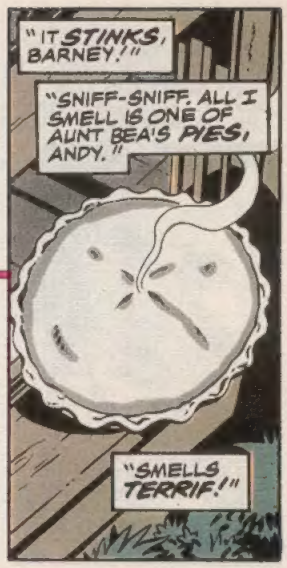
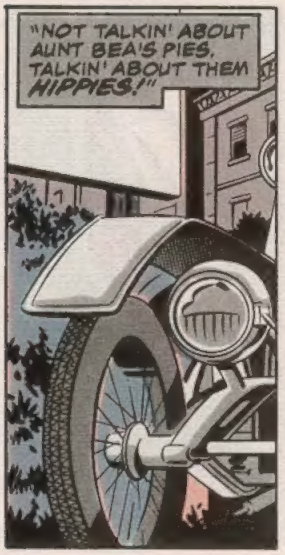
VIDEO JACK





CARY BATES:
PLOT/DIALOGUE

KEITH GIFFEN:
PLOT/PENCILS

DAVE HUNT:
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JIM NOVAK:
LETTERER

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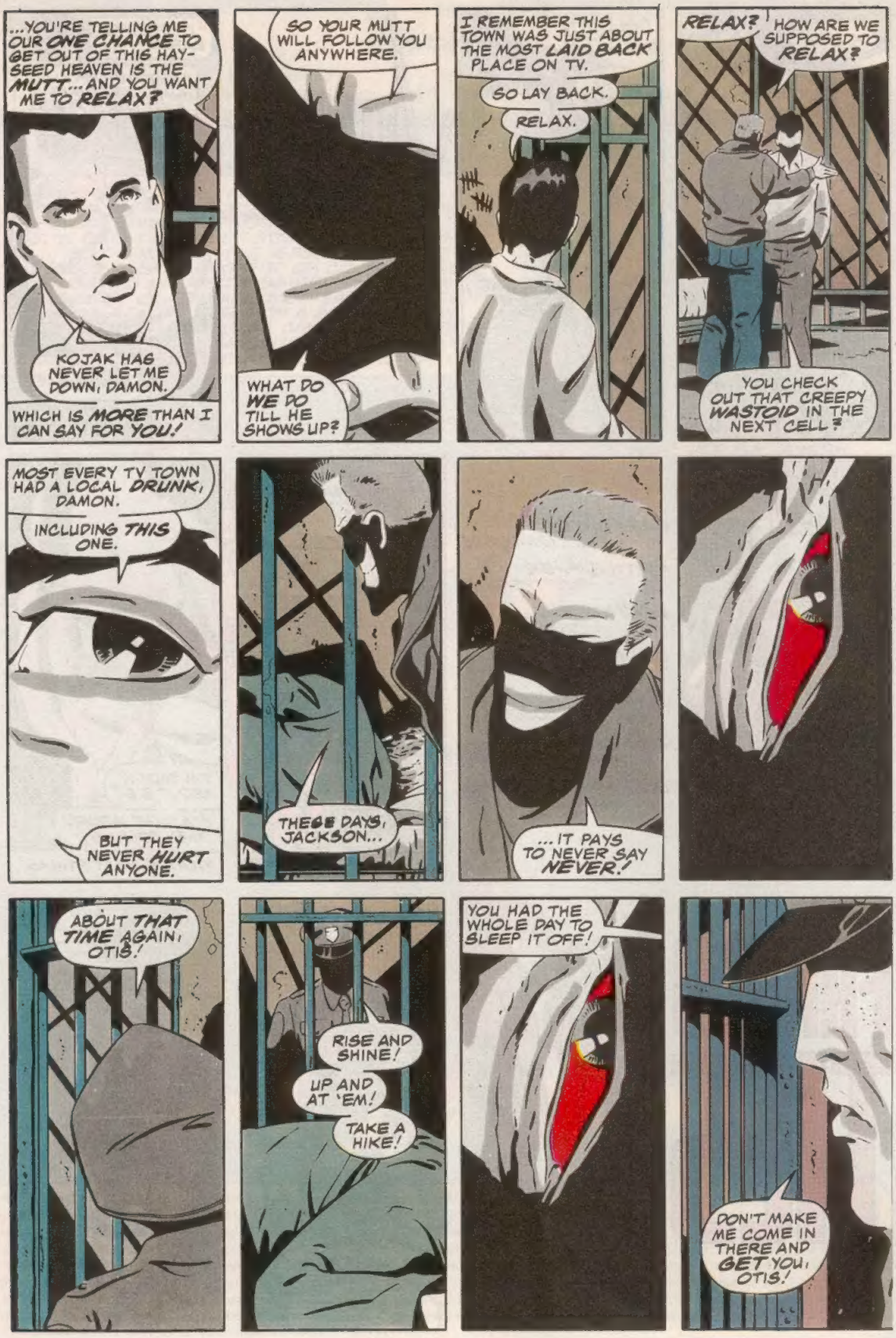
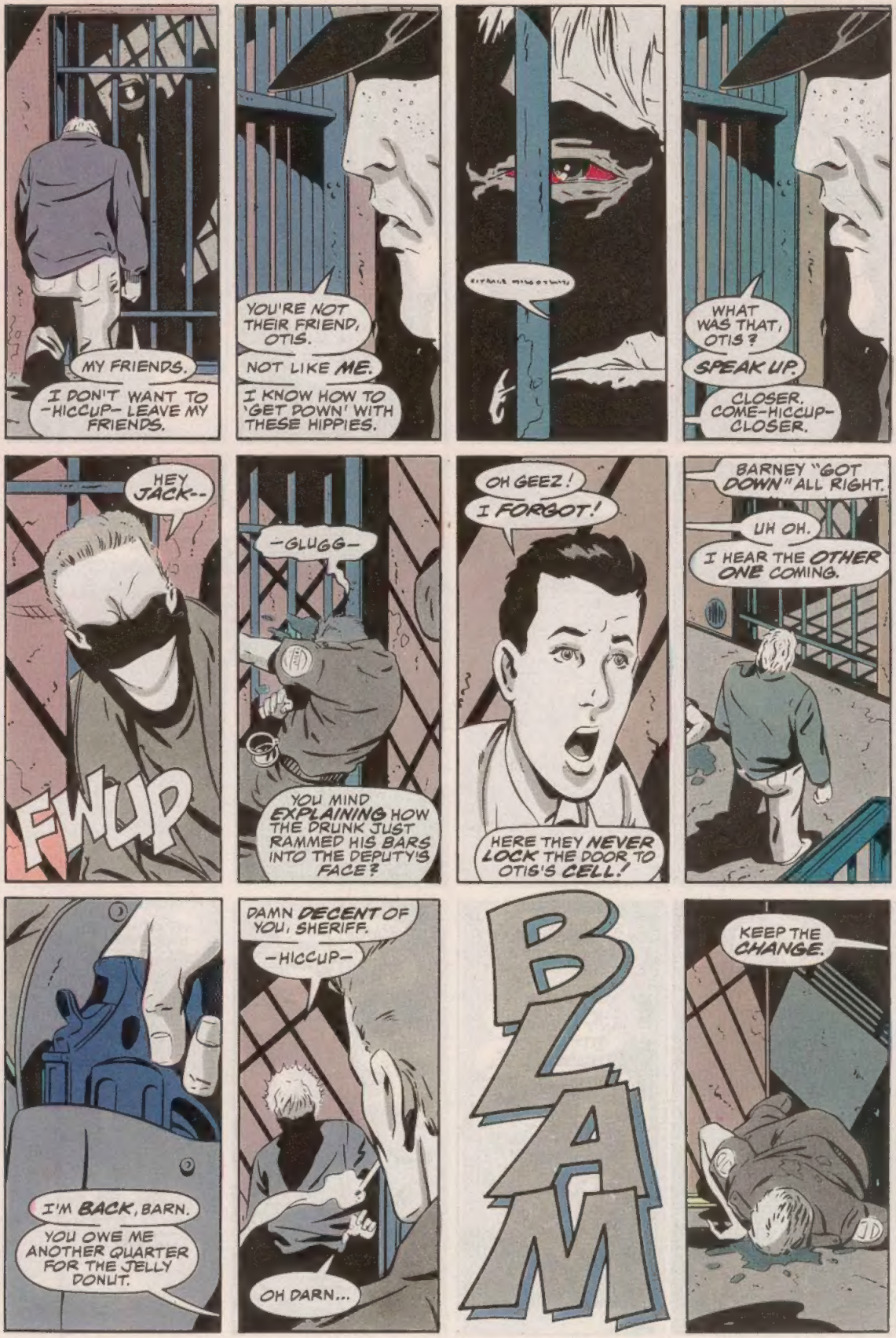
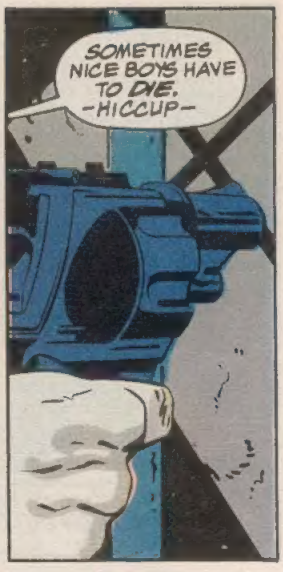
STEPHEN DESTEFANO:
GUEST PENCILLER

FAMILY TIES


...YOU'RE TELLING ME OUR ONE CHANCE TO GET OUT OF THIS HAY-SEED HEAVEN IS THE MUTT... AND YOU WANT ME TO RELAX?
KOJAK HAS NEVER LET ME DOWN, DAMON.
WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOU!
SO YOUR MUTT WILL FOLLOW YOU ANYWHERE.
WHAT DO WE DO TILL HE SHOWS UP?
I REMEMBER THIS TOWN WAS JUST ABOUT THE MOST LAID BACK PLACE ON TV.
SO LAY BACK.
RELAX.
RELAX? HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO RELAX?
YOU CHECK OUT THAT CREEPY WASTOID IN THE NEXT CELL?
MOST EVERY TV TOWN HAD A LOCAL DRUNK, DAMON.
INCLUDING THIS ONE.
BUT THEY NEVER HURT ANYONE.
THESE DAYS, JACKSON...
...IT PAYS TO NEVER SAY NEVER!
ABOUT THAT TIME AGAIN, OTIS!
RISE AND SHINE!
UP AND AT 'EM!
TAKE A HIKE!
YOU HAD THE WHOLE DAY TO SLEEP IT OFF!
DON'T MAKE ME COME IN THERE AND GET YOU, OTIS!

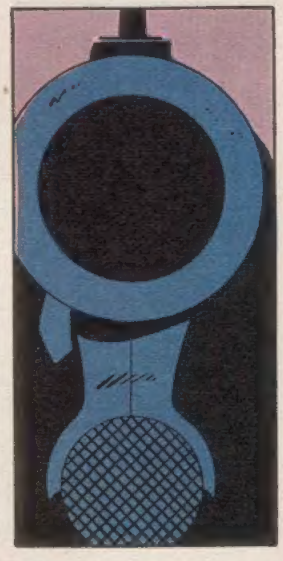

MY FRIENDS.
I DON'T WANT TO -HICCUP- LEAVE MY FRIENDS.
YOU'RE NOT THEIR FRIEND, OTIS.
NOT LIKE ME.
I KNOW HOW TO 'GET DOWN' WITH THESE HIPPIES.
WHAT WAS THAT, OTIS?
SPEAK UP.
CLOSER. COME-HICCUP-CLOSER.
HEY JACK--
FWUP
-GLUGG-
YOU MIND EXPLAINING HOW THE DRUNK JUST RAMMED HIS BARS INTO THE DEPUTY'S FACE?
OH GEEZ! I FORGOT!
HERE THEY NEVER LOCK THE DOOR TO OTIS'S CELL!
BARNEY "GOT DOWN" ALL RIGHT.
UH OH.
I HEAR THE OTHER ONE COMING.
I'M BACK, BARN.
YOU OWE ME ANOTHER QUARTER FOR THE JELLY DONUT.
DAMN DECENT OF YOU, SHERIFF.
-HICCUP-
OH DARN...
BLAM
KEEP THE CHANGE.

NOW HE'S LOOKING AT US!
WHY IS HE LOOKING AT US?


SOMETIMES NICE BOYS HAVE TO DIE. -HICCUP-

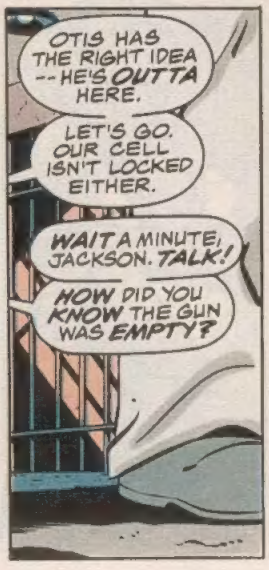
OH GEEZ, JACK!
HE'S TALKING ABOUT YOU!

HE'S GONNA SHOOT YOU!

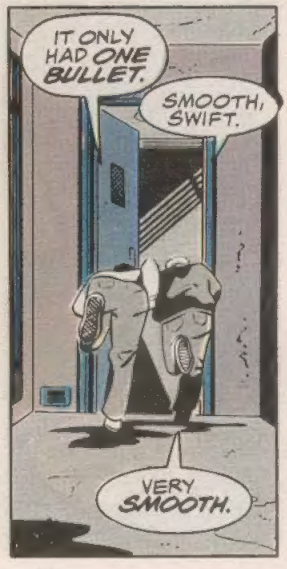


KLIK

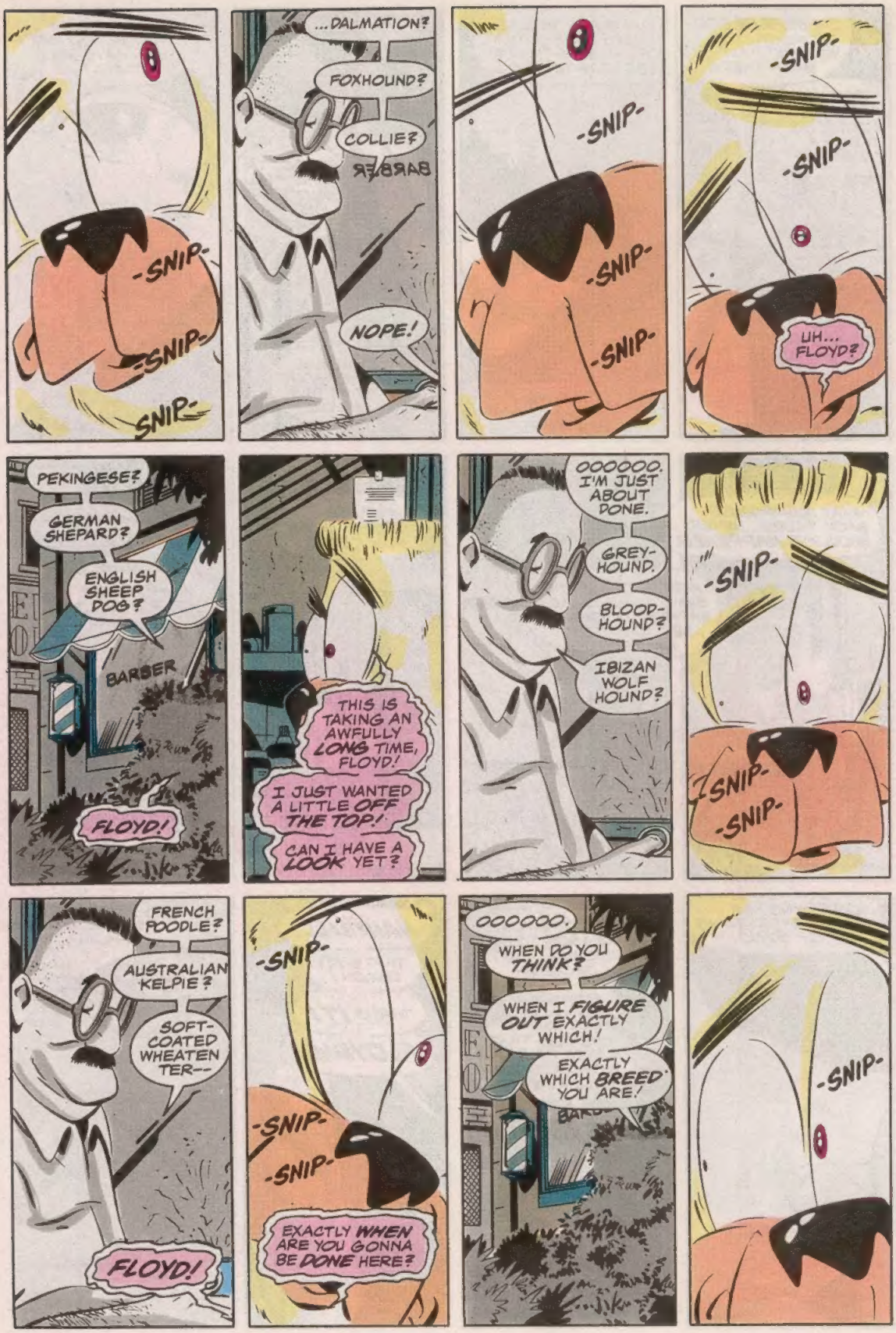
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
-HICCUP-


OTIS HAS THE RIGHT IDEA -- HE'S OUTTA HERE.
LET'S GO. OUR CELL ISN'T LOCKED EITHER.
WAIT A MINUTE, JACKSON. TALK!
HOW DID YOU KNOW THE GUN WAS EMPTY?

SIMPLE.
BARNEY'S GUN, RIGHT?
ANYONE WHO WATCHED THIS SHOW AS MUCH AS I DID KNOWS ABOUT BARNEY'S GUN.


IT ONLY HAD ONE BULLET.
SMOOTH, SWIFT.
VERY SMOOTH.

I'M IMPRESSED, JACKSON. YOU WEREN'T HALF-BAD BACK THERE.
COMING FROM YOU, I SUPPOSE THAT'S A COMPLIMENT.
BUT IF ALL THE HAY-SEEDS BELIEVE THAT DRUNK IS AS "HARM-LESS" AS YOU SAY...
TEN TO ONE WE GET THE BLAME FOR THE SHERIFF!
WE GOTTA FIND THE MUTT AND FIND HIM FAST!
ONE NICE THING ABOUT A TOWN THIS SMALL.
ONCE WE WALK DOWN MAIN STREET WE'LL HAVE SEEN IT ALL!
WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE...NEVER SHOULD'VE HAPPENED.
NOT IF THIS IS THE SAME LITTLE BLACK-AND-WHITE TOWN I USED TO WATCH ON TV.
MURDER DOESN'T SCAN. NOT HERE.
SOMETHING'S WRONG, DAMON.
SPECIAL
SOMETHING HAS THROWN EVERYTHING OUT OF SYNC.
ALL THE MORE REASON TO GET THE HELL OUT, JACKSON.
SO WHERE IS HE?
WHERE IS THAT MANGY HAIRBALL WITH EYES YOU CALL A PET?
HAIRBALL!
THAT'S IT, DAMON!
THAT'S IT!
FLOYD'S!
SUCH NICE BOYS...


-SNIP-
-SNIP-
SNIP-
...DALMATION?
FOXHOUND?
COLLIE?
BARBER
NOPE!
-SNIP-
-SNIP-
-SNIP-
-SNIP-
-SNIP-
UH... FLOYD?
PEKINGESE?
GERMAN SHEPARD?
ENGLISH SHEEP DOG?
BARBER
FLOYD!
THIS IS TAKING AN AWFULLY LONG TIME, FLOYD!
I JUST WANTED A LITTLE OFF THE TOP!
CAN I HAVE A LOOK YET?
OOOOOO. I'M JUST ABOUT DONE.
GREY-HOUND.
BLOOD-HOUND?
IBIZAN WOLF HOUND?
-SNIP-
-SNIP-
-SNIP-
FRENCH POODLE?
AUSTRALIAN KELPIE?
SOFT-COATED WHEATEN TER--
FLOYD!
-SNIP-
-SNIP-
-SNIP-
EXACTLY WHEN ARE YOU GONNA BE DONE HERE?
OOOOOO.
WHEN DO YOU THINK?
WHEN I FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHICH!
EXACTLY WHICH BREED YOU ARE!
-SNIP-

HAVE A SEAT, YOUNG MAN. I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MOMENT.
BUTCH $
LIFER $
THANKS ANYWAY, FLOYD.
I'VE SEEN YOUR WORK!
AND WHAT'S THAT S'POSED TO MEAN?
YOU SAYING YOU DON'T LIKE MY RAZOR-CUT?
GIVE ME A RAZOR--
I'LL DO THE POOCH UP RIGHT!
CAN IT, DAMON.
KOJAK, WE BROKE OUT!
PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE AFTER US.
THE SHERIFF'S DEAD.
JACK, YOU DIDN'T--
NOT US, YOU DUMB MUTT.
BUT WE'RE SURE TO GET THE BLAME!
THAT'S WHY WE GOTTA ZAP OURSELVES OUTTA HERE!
NOBODY'S GOING ANYWHERE, YOUNG FELLA.
NOT UNTIL SOMEBODY PAYS FOR THE MONGREL'S HAIRCUT.
THAT WILL BE ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY--
RRRRRR
OOOOO-OOOOOO.
A CHAINSAW!
THE SICKO HAS A CHAINSAW!
NICE BOYS.
WHEN DID THIS TURN INTO FRIDAY THE 13TH?
WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING--
QUICK-- THE STORE-ROOM!

RRRRR
SLAMM
-PHEW-
GET US OUT OF HERE, KOJAK--
RRRR
WHAAT?
--NOW!!
RRRRR
YOU HEARD YOUR MASTER, MUTT.
COUGH IT UP!
-GLUGGGG-
SOMEBODY PUSH THE BUTTON!
SPLAAAK
HERE'S JOHNNY!
JACK, PUSH THE DAMN BUTTON!
SSSSS

--DIG IT, A SPACESHIP! AND CHECK OUT THE THREADS, MAN!

WE MUST BE IN THE FEDERATION, RIGHT?

WRONG COLORS. AND THE LIGHTING ISN'T RIGHT.

WHATEVER WE'RE ABOARD, IT'S NOT THE ENTERPRISE.

YOU GO FIGURE, JACKSON! THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GOOD AT!

ME, I'M GONNA HAVE A LOOK AROUND THIS TUB!

DAMON, WAIT--! STAY CLOSE!

NAHH, LET HIM GO!

IF WE'RE LUCKY, MAYBE WE'LL GET SUCKED OUT THROUGH AN AIR-LOCK OR SOME-THING!

THEN WE CAN KISS HICKORY HAVEN GOOD-BYE, KOJAK.

WHO DO YOU THINK STILL HAS THE REMOTE-CONTROL?

OOOPPS.

-SIGH- SO WE EITHER FIND THE BUNT-HOLE OR WE END UP PERMANENTLY LOST IN SPACE!

YOU GOT IT.

Y'KNOW, THERE'S SOMETHING KINDA CREEPY ABOUT THIS SHIP...CREEPY AND FAMILIAR!

UH OH.

NOT HERE. ANYWHERE BUT HERE.

WHY? WHAT'S HERE?

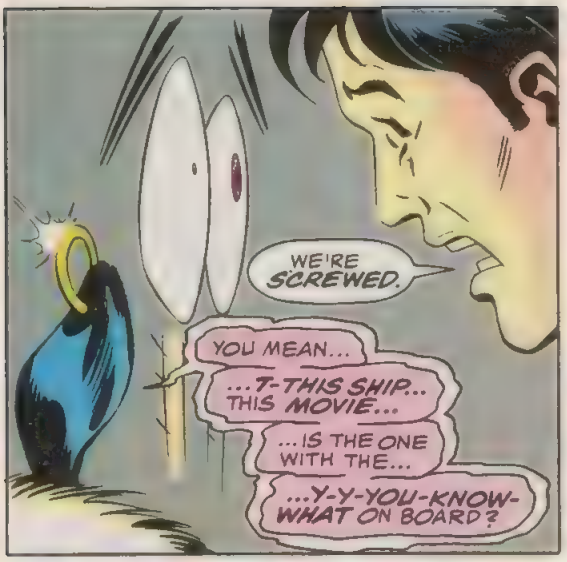
R-RATED TROUBLE-- MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER FIND ON NETWORKTV!

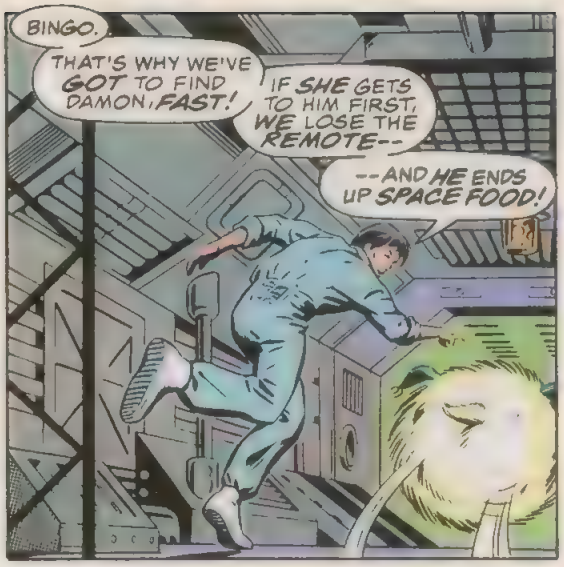
NOSTROMO

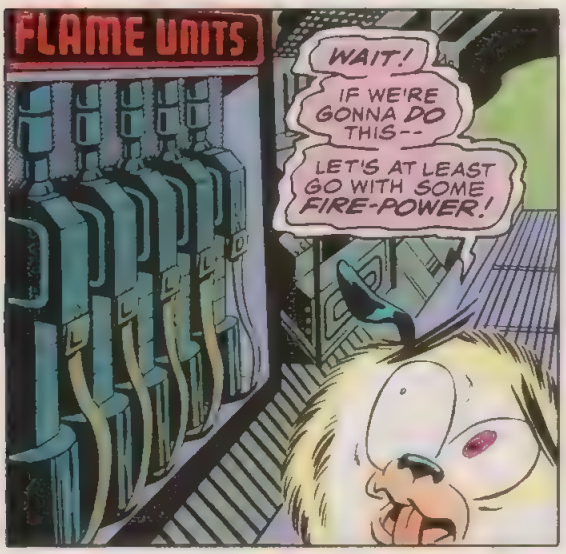
WE ZAPPED INTO CABLE.

ALIENS, KOJAK.

ALIENS!

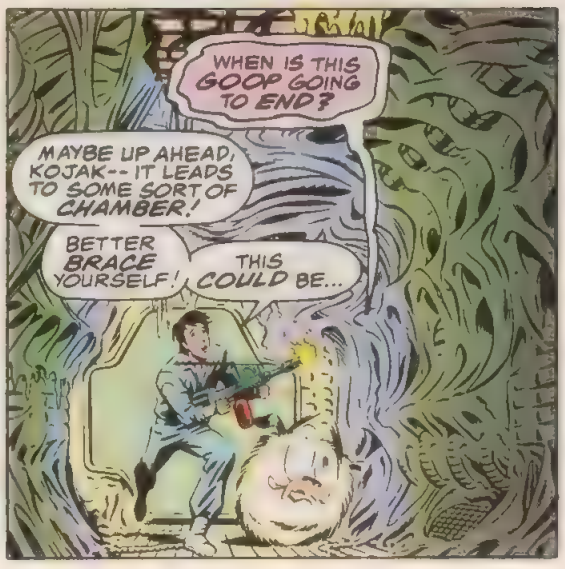

WE'RE SCREWED.
YOU MEAN...
...T-THIS SHIP... THIS MOVIE...
...IS THE ONE WITH THE...
...Y-Y-YOU-KNOW-WHAT ON BOARD?


BINGO.
THAT'S WHY WE'VE GOT TO FIND DAMON, FAST!
IF SHE GETS TO HIM FIRST, WE LOSE THE REMOTE--
--AND HE ENDS UP SPACE FOOD!


FLAME UNITS
WAIT!
IF WE'RE GONNA DO THIS--
LET'S AT LEAST GO WITH SOME FIRE-POWER!

NOT BAD.
SURE BEATS FLICKING A BIC!
FOOSSHH
YEESHH. DON'T WASTE IT, JACK.

23
NNNOOOOO
THAT'S DAMON!
FOLLOW THE SCREAM!
I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY THAT!


WHEN IS THIS GOOP GOING TO END?
MAYBE UP AHEAD, KOJAK-- IT LEADS TO SOME SORT OF CHAMBER!
BETTER BRACE YOURSELF!
THIS COULD BE...

HHHSSSSS
...GROSS!

HSSS
NNNICE BBOYS...

LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE, DAMON!
DAMON!
I THINK HE'S IN SHOCK, KOJAK!

YOU'D BE TOO! I JUST HAD A CLOSE LOOK AT HER EGGS!
YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHO THEY TAKE AFTER!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SPLAK!K
S-S-SEE FOR YOURSELF! BUT HURRY!

?!? THEY ALL HAVE... LITTLE DAMON-FACES!
DAMON-FACES!?!
OH GOD.

I KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS!
I KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS!
KEEP AWAY FROM HIM, YOU BITCH!

I CAN'T GET TO THE REMOTE! IT'S STUCK IN ALL THE GOOP!

GREAT! NOW WHAT DO WE DO?!

WE RUN! SPLIT UP!

LURE IT AWAY FROM DAMON!

THOSE EGGS! WHY DID THEY ALL LOOK LIKE HIM?

HHSSSSS

THE ALIEN--

THE TOWN BUM FROM THE BLACK-AND-WHITE WORLD--

DAMON'S GIRLFRIEND FROM THE WORLD BEFORE THAT--

THE SERIAL KILLER IN HICKORY HAVEN--

--THEY WERE ALL THE SAME!

HHSSSSS

BBBLEED...

ONE AND THE SAME!

BBBLASPHEMERS HHAVE A NNEED TO BBLEED...

WISH I HAD SEEN THIS MOVIE MORE THAN ONCE!

IT SHOULD BE TELLING ME SOMETHING!

CHUKK!

CHUKK!

KLUGG!

SOMETHING USEFUL I CAN USE TO FIGHT THIS THING!

DAMN. IT'S FOLLOWING ME FROM UP ABOVE.

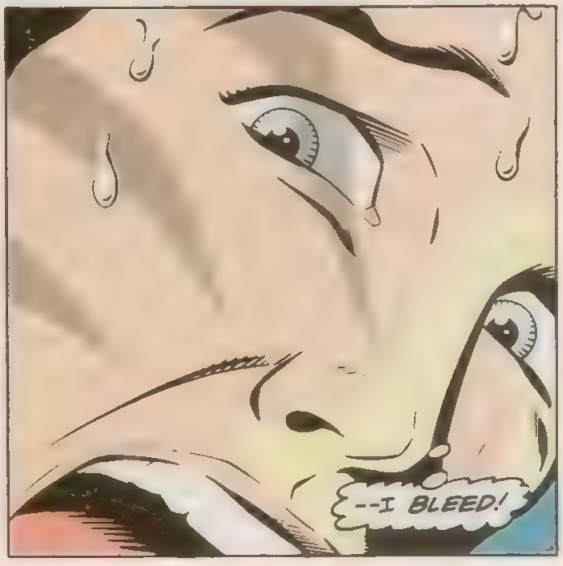
SPLAKK
OHHSSSS
YIKES!

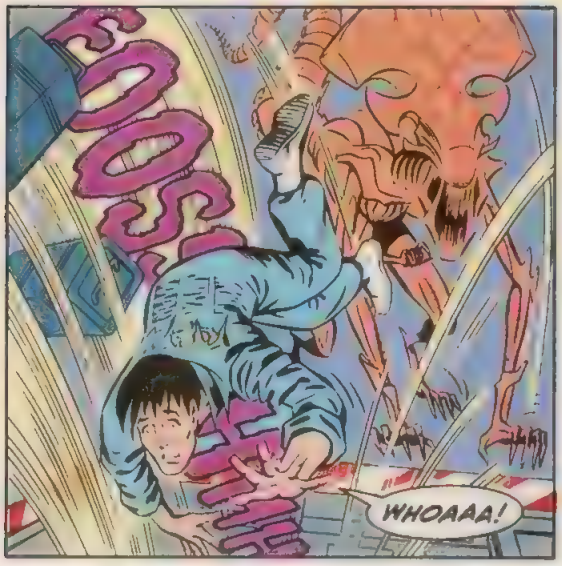
FOOSH
THERE GOES MY LAST CHARGE!
AND SHE LOOKS MADDER THAN EVER!
NOW WHAT!

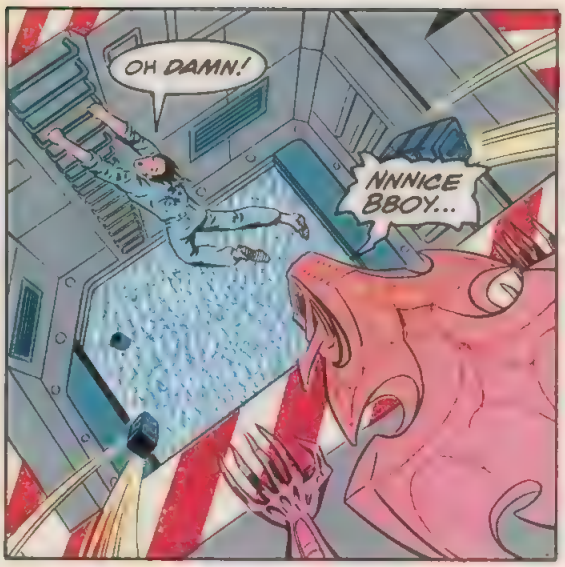
CAUTION
WAIT A MINUTE!
THAT'S IT!
THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD'VE REMEMBERED--

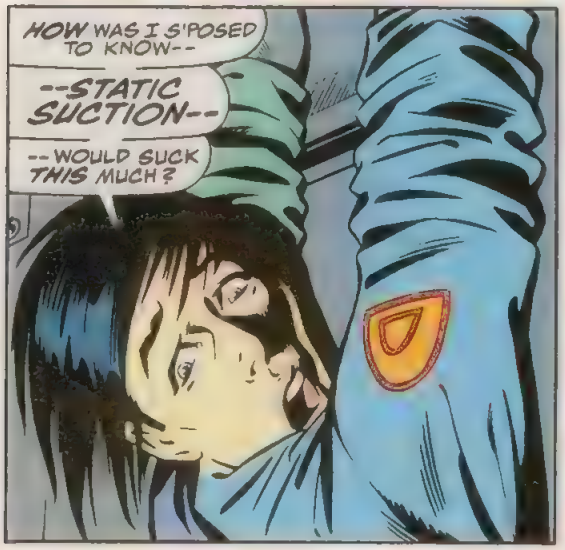
--THE AIR LOCK!
THIS SPACESHIP HAD TO HAVE AN AIR LOCK!

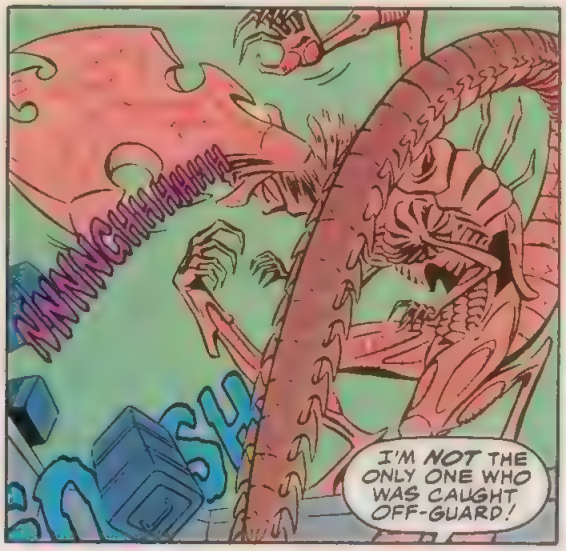
NO TIME FOR TRIAL AND ERROR.
IF I DON'T PUNCH IT UP RIGHT THE FIRST TIME--


--I BLEED!

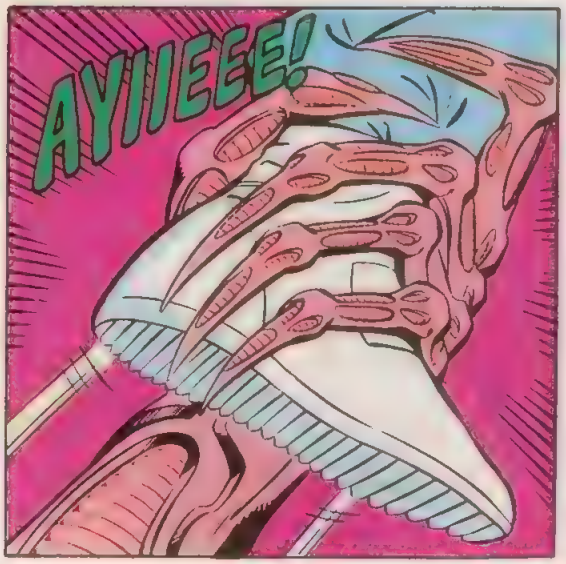

FOOSH
WHOAAA!


OH DAMN!
NNNICE BBOY...


HOW WAS I S'POSED TO KNOW--
--STATIC SUCTION--
--WOULD SUCK THIS MUCH?


NNNNGHHHHH
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS CAUGHT OFF-GUARD!

HAPPY LANDINGS, BITCH!


AYIIEEE!

YYOU'RE MMINE, JJACK!
MMMINE NNOW!
SORRY--!
DON'T--
--THINK--
--MY MOM--
RRRIIPP
--WOULD APPROVE!
UUURRGHHH!
EPHEWE

...UUHHH... I FEEL SIX INCHES TALLER--
--AND IT HURTS!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, A MEDAL?
SHE'S DEAD, KOJAK.
NO ONE CAN SURVIVE THE STATIC BARRIER--
--NOT EVEN ALIENS.
YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO, JACK!
IT WAS EITHER THE DRAGON LADY OR US--
JACK-- JACK SWIFT
HUH?
PLEASE, JACK SWIFT...
HELP US...
... HELP US...
YECCHHH!
OH GOD. THOSE PEOPLE.
SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE OUR NEIGHBORS!
YOU KNOW THE PROGNOSIS HERE, JACK!
ANYONE THE ALIEN "OOZED" INTO HUMAN EGG-FOOD ISN'T LONG FOR THIS WORLD!
THIS WORLD, KOJAK-- BUT THERE ARE OTHER WORLDS!
OTHER VIDEO-REALMS WHERE THESE UNLUCKY FEW MIGHT HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVAL!
WELL, THEY SURE HAVE A TOUGH TIME ENDING UP ANY WORSE!

I'M GOING BACK FOR DAMON AND THE REMOTE!
DON'T GO ANYWHERE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
?!? I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
SOMEBODY SNATCHED THE REMOTE!
BUT WHO?
DON'T GO VEGETABLE ON ME, XARNETT!
TELL ME WHO--!
WHO SHAFTED US!??
-CLIK-
ERRGHH!

?!? GUESS *WHAT*!!

SOMEBODY ELSE MUST'VE PUSHED THE *BUTTON*!

NOW GUESS WHAT *THAT* IS! GO ON *GUESS*!

UH... A THIRTY YEAR MORTGAGE?

NO, YOU BONEHEAD! THE *SWIFT* RESIDENCE!

LOOK I KNOW I WAS *ZOMBIED-OUT* FOR AWHILE IN THAT LAST VIDEO-WORLD--

...BUT I *KNOW* WHAT I *HEAR*, JACKSON!

AND I *SWEAR* ...I HEAR *PEOPLE*!

PEOPLE *LAUGHING* AT ME!

OH, *THAT*!

DAMON, THAT'S JUST THE LAUGH-TRACK.

JUST THE *LAUGH-TRACK*?!?

IS THERE AN *ECHO* IN HERE?

HAHAHAHAHA

YOU *SURE* YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THIS HOUSE.

AM I *SURE*?

JUST *WATCH*--!

HI MOM.

IT'S ME.

YOU KNOW, *JACK*?

I'M *HOME*.

GOOD MORNING, JACK.

WHY HELLO, DAMON.

-GULP-

M-*MOM*?

I PUT YOUR BACON AND EGGS BENEDICT ON THE TABLE.

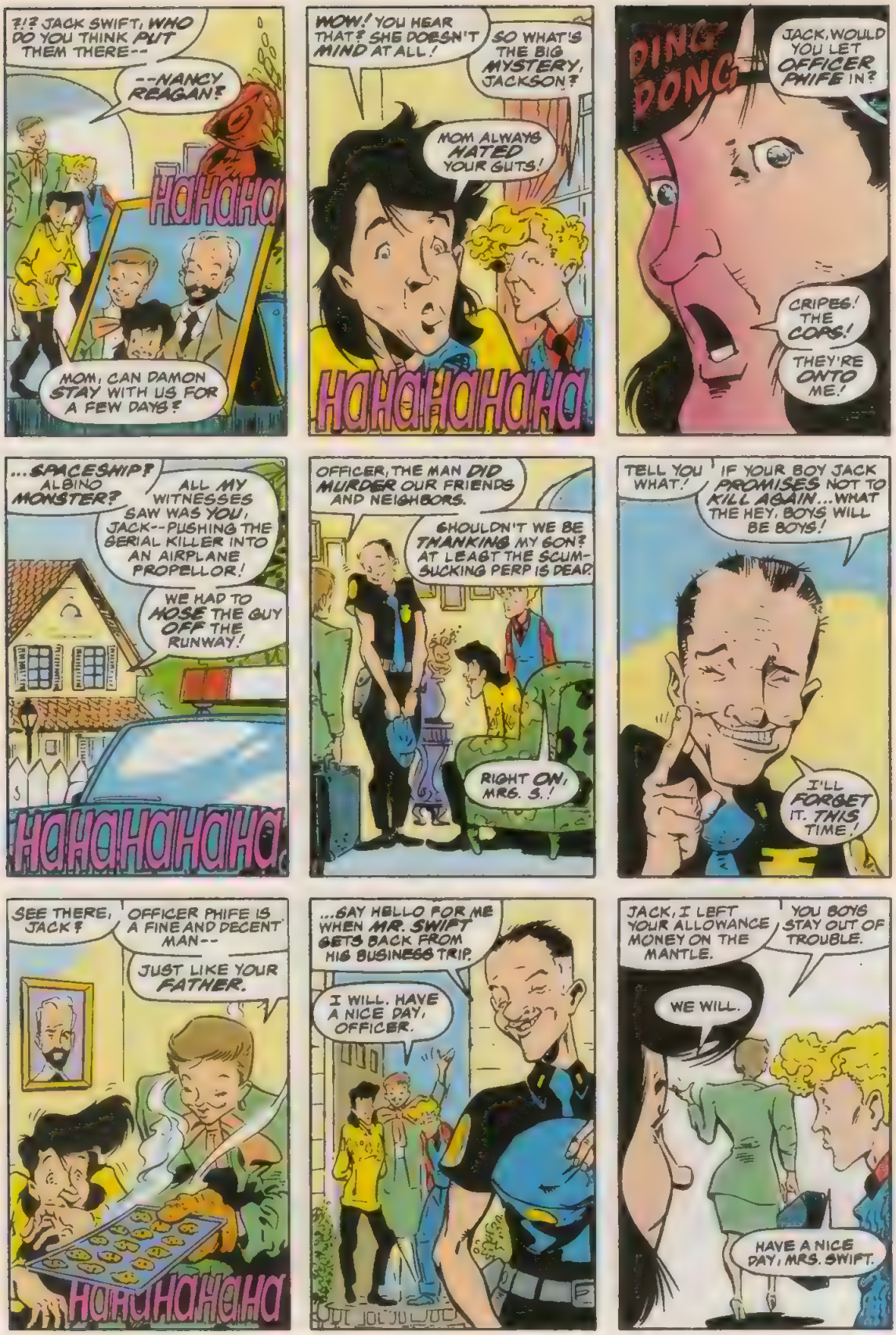
I IRONED YOUR SHIRTS AND PRESSED YOUR PANTS.

I CLEANED YOUR VIDEO HEADS AND SERVICED YOUR VC-

D-*DAD*?

MOM...

DID YOU NOTICE THE PICTURES OF *DAD* ALL OVER THE HOUSE?


?!? JACK SWIFT, WHO DO YOU THINK PUT THEM THERE--
--NANCY REAGAN!
HaHaHa
MOM, CAN DAMON STAY WITH US FOR A FEW DAYS?
WOW! YOU HEAR THAT? SHE DOESN'T MIND AT ALL!
SO WHAT'S THE BIG MYSTERY, JACKSON?
MOM ALWAYS HATED YOUR GUTS!
HaHaHaHaHa
DING DONG
JACK, WOULD YOU LET OFFICER PHIFE IN?
CRIPES! THE COPS!
THEY'RE ONTO ME!
...SPACESHIP? ALBINO MONSTER?
ALL MY WITNESSES SAW WAS YOU, JACK--PUSHING THE SERIAL KILLER INTO AN AIRPLANE PROPELLOR!
WE HAD TO HOSE THE GUY OFF THE RUNWAY!
HaHaHaHaHa
OFFICER, THE MAN DID MURDER OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.
SHOULDN'T WE BE THANKING MY SON? AT LEAST THE SCUM-SUCKING PERP IS DEAD!
RIGHT ON, MRS. S.!
TELL YOU WHAT!
IF YOUR BOY JACK PROMISES NOT TO KILL AGAIN...WHAT THE HEY, BOYS WILL BE BOYS!
I'LL FORGET IT. THIS TIME.
SEE THERE, JACK?
OFFICER PHIFE IS A FINE AND DECENT MAN--
JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER.
HaHaHaHaHa
...SAY HELLO FOR ME WHEN MR. SWIFT GETS BACK FROM HIS BUSINESS TRIP.
I WILL. HAVE A NICE DAY, OFFICER.
JACK, I LEFT YOUR ALLOWANCE MONEY ON THE MANTLE.
YOU BOYS STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.
WE WILL.
HAVE A NICE DAY, MRS. SWIFT.

?!? 'HAVE A NICE DAY'?
DAMON, YOU ALMOST SOUNDED AS IF THERE WAS A HALF-TRACE OF SOMETHING LIKE SINCERITY IN YOUR VOICE.
CUT ME SOME SLACK, JACK.
AFTER THE HELL I WENT THROUGH UP ON THAT ALIEN SHIP--
--I'M ALL FOR KICKING BACK AND TAKING IT EASY FOR AWHILE.
NOW YOU'RE TALKING SENSE FOR A CHANGE.
BUT YOU GOTTA TELL ME WHAT TO DO, MAN.
I NEVER DID WATCH THESE SIT-COM THINGS.
OH COME ON. NOT EVEN BILL COSBY?
I'M SERIOUS!
HaHaHaHaHa
...BUT EVERYTIME I ASK MOM ABOUT DAD, SHE ALWAYS SAYS THE SAME THING--
'WE'LL SEE, JACK.'
WHAT KIND OF ANSWER IS THAT? 'WE'LL SEE'!
MMMFF, MMMFF.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
STILL, I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN.
GOLLY, DAMON, I DON'T REMEMBER EVER BEING THIS HAPPY... NOT SINCE... SINCE...
MMMFFF!!
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT, XARNETT!
AND WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE RIGHT--
--I DO TALK TOO MUCH!
BUT DO ME ONE FAVOR--?
SAY GOODNIGHT, DAMON-BOY!
HaHaHaHaHa
SAY G'NIGHT TO YOURSELF, JACK-BOY!
GOD, I LOVE THIS!
GRRRRR...

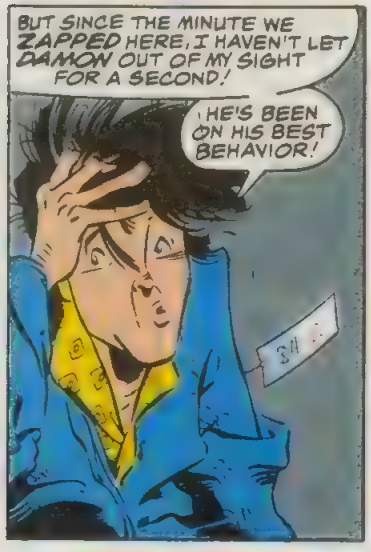
FETCH, BOY!
...FETCH THE STICK, BOY!
YOU KNOW-- FETCH?
AS IN...
..."GO GET"...?
...FETCH...?
HOW ABOUT STICKING THE STICK, JACK?
AS IN...
"UP YOUR-"
KOJAK--!
EASY, BOY, EASY!
THE "FETCH" ROUTINE WAS JUST A JOKE TO SATISFY THE LAUGH-TRACK!
WE HAVE TO MEET OUR QUOTA OF "YUKS", YOU KNOW.
I HATE CANNED LAUGHS!
OH I FORGOT-- YOU LIKE YOUR HUMOR LIKE YOUR DOG FOOD-- DRY!
HAHAHA
SORRY.
SORRY IS JUST WHAT YOU'LL BE, JACK SWIFT, IF YOU DON'T WISE UP AND LISTEN TO ME.
YOU GOTTA BE ON YOUR GUARD WITH DAMON.
DAMON?
NOT THE NEW DAMON.
HOW COULD YOU DELUDE YOURSELF INTO BELIEVING XARNETT HAS GIVEN UP HIS EVIL WAYS?...
JUST BECAUSE HE'S ALWAYS SO POLITE AROUND YOUR--
MOM--!
YOU CAME HOME FROM THE OFFICE JUST TO MAKE US LUNCH?
YOU'RE TOO MUCH!
YES I AM, AREN'T I?
HAHA!
I'M SORRY, KOJAK, BUT I JUST DON'T SEE IT!
I SAY EVERY-BODY DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE-- EVEN DAMON XARNETT.
-SIGH- THAT'S MY JACK!

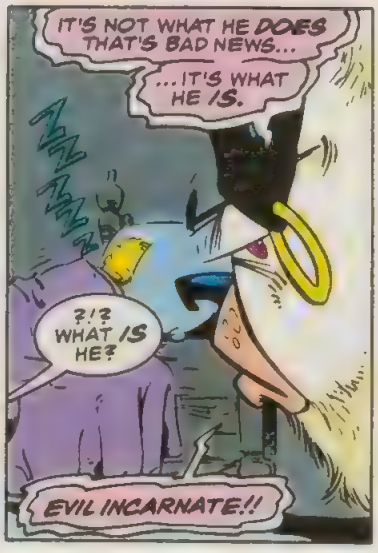
MOM?
YES, JACK.
YOU MIND IF I ASK WHAT IT *IS* EXACTLY YOU DO FOR A *LIVING*?
WHAT A BONE-HEAD QUESTION, SWIFT.
CAN'T YOU SEE YOUR MOTHER'S *BUMMED-OUT*!
MOM... WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IT'S... YOUR *FATHER*.
HE *CALLED* LAST NIGHT.
HIS BUSINESS TRIP IS GOING TO KEEP HIM *AWAY*... A LITTLE LONGER THAN HE THOUGHT.
HOW MUCH LONGER?
A DAY? TWO DAYS? A WEEK?
12 YEARS.
12 YEARS?!?
MOM, WHAT ARE YOU *TELLING* ME?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
$209
D-DON'T BE SUCH A DUMB-ASS, JACK!
DO I HAVE TO SPELL *EVERYTHING* OUT FOR YOU?
YOUR *FATHER* IS *LEFT* US!
THE BASTARD'S *NOT* COMING BACK!
SOB SOB SOB SOB
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
THINGS LIKE *THIS* AREN'T SUPPOSED TO *HAPPEN* HERE.
NOT IN A *SIT-COM*!
AND DID YOU *HEAR* MY MOM? SHE CALLED ME A *DUMB ASS*!
IF THE REEBOK *FITS*, PAL...
LATER, JACKSON. I'M GONNA GO WALK OFF THESE PANCAKES.
DON'T *SAY* IT, KOJAK!
DON'T SAY *WHAT*? I *TOLD* YOU SO?
HOHOH
JUST A *JOKE* --FOR THE QUOTA, REMEMBER?

AREN'T YOU GONNA SAY 'G'NIGHT, DAMON-BOY'?
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD.
BESIDES, DAMON'S ALREADY ASLEEP.

WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY.
THIS ISN'T TURNING OUT AT ALL LIKE I THOUGHT IT WOULD, KOJAK.
NO KIDDING! BETWEEN THOSE DAMN LAUGH-TRACKS, I KEEP HEARING YOUR MOTHER!

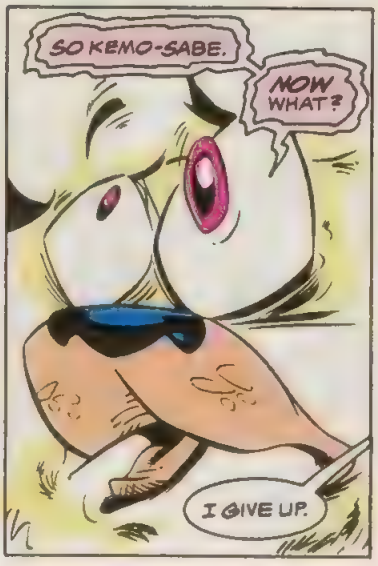
SHE'S CRYING HERSELF TO SLEEP NEXT DOOR!
I TRIED TO WARN YOU, DIDN'T I?
BUT NOOOOOO... YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN!


BUT SINCE THE MINUTE WE ZAPPED HERE, I HAVEN'T LET DAMON OUT OF MY SIGHT FOR A SECOND!
HE'S BEEN ON HIS BEST BEHAVIOR!


IT'S NOT WHAT HE DOES THAT'S BAD NEWS...
...IT'S WHAT HE IS.
?!? WHAT IS HE?
EVIL INCARNATE!!

WHERE DO YOU THINK WE ARE -- IN TALES FROM THE DARKSIDE?
OKAY, TRY THIS.
THINK OF DAMON AS A WALKING 'DRY CELL BATTERY' OVER-FLOWING WITH NEGA-TIVE ENERGY!

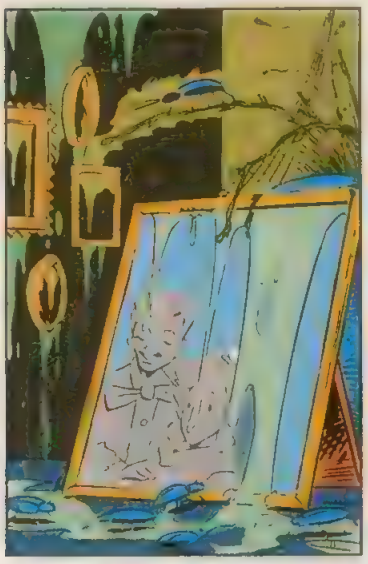
SOONER OR LATER, HIS EVIL CHARGES UP EVERY VIDEO-REALM HE ENTERS.
HE CAN'T HELP IT, JACK.
LIKE I SAID, IT'S--
I KNOW. WHAT HE IS.


SO KEMO-SABE.
NOW WHAT?
I GIVE UP.

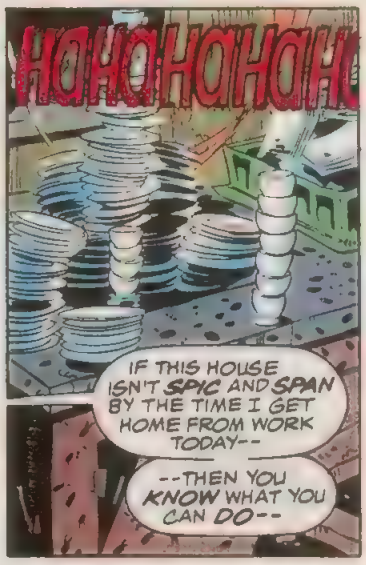
FOR TONIGHT, ANYWAY.
MAYBE THINGS WILL LOOK BRIGHTER IN THE MORNING.
YIELD
HaHa

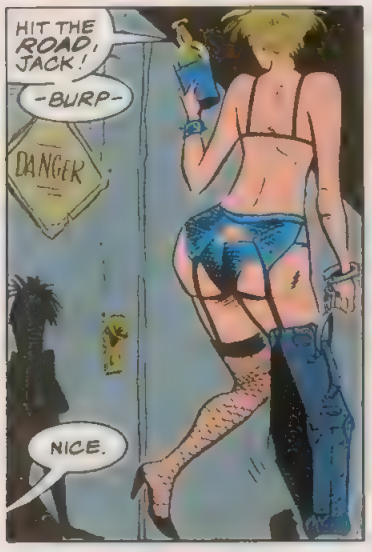
HAHA
HAHAH
NO GOOD -BURP-
JIM NICKELS
OL' FASHIONED
BOOZE
90 PROOF · DISTILLED
MEN ARE -BURP- NO DAMN GOOD!
MOM'S A TEETOTALER, KOJAK. AT LEAST SHE ALWAYS WAS.
NOW LOOK AT HER.
DRUNK AS A SKUNK.
$6.32
HAHAHAHA
AND THE HOUSE!
LOOK AT IT! A WHOLE DAY OF CLEANING AND I'VE ONLY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE OF THE FILTH!
WELL, I--
I KNOW. I KNOW.
--YOU TOLD ME SO.
LOOK AT HIM.
HE JUST SITS AROUND THE HOUSE ALL DAY WATCHING TV!
HE SORTA REMINDS ME OF ME!
DON'T DO THAT TO YOURSELF, JACK!
YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE HIM!
DAMON IS SOMETHING ELSE!

JJJJACK--
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
-GUMPFF- YES, MOM?
WHAT'VE I TOLD YOU ABOUT EATING SNACKS BE-TWEEN MEALS?!
MOM, IT'S ONLY A COOKIE!
ONLY A COOKIE!
ONLY A COOKIE!!
THAT'S HOW IT ALWAYS STARTS!
FIRST YOU HAVE ONE--
THEN ANOTHER--
AND ANOTHER--
AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU'RE HOOKED!
MOM, TAKE IT EASY, OKAY?
-PTUHHH-
AND HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU--
--DON'T TALK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL!
IT'S BAD MANNERS...
R-RIGHT, MOM. RIGHT.
HOHOH
MY MISTAKE...
MOM?
MOM, I--
NEVER MIND.



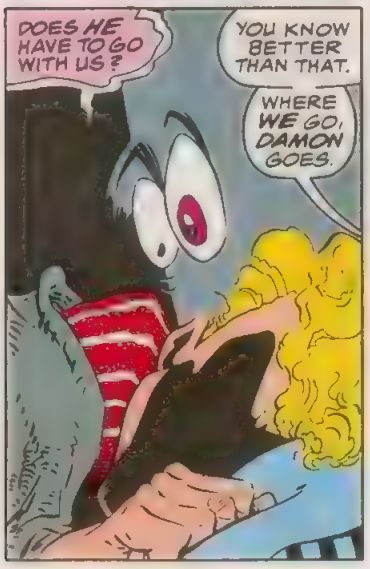
--JUST LIKE YOUR NO-ACCOUNT FATHER, JACK SWIFT.
BUT AROUND HERE, I MAKE THE RULES!


HAHAHAHAHA
IF THIS HOUSE ISN'T SPIC AND SPAN BY THE TIME I GET HOME FROM WORK TODAY--
--THEN YOU KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO--

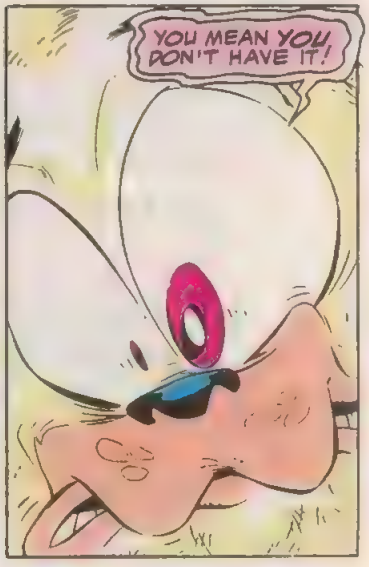

HIT THE ROAD, JACK!
-BURP-
DANGER
NICE.

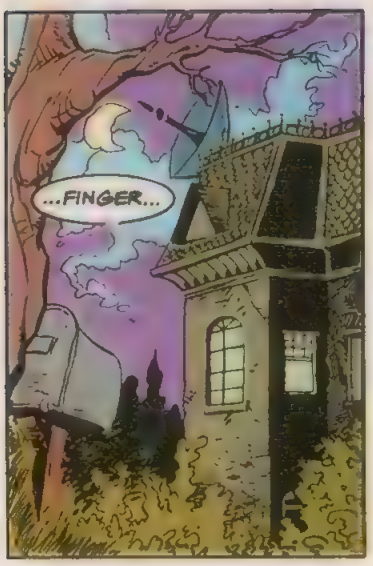
THAT WAS MY MOTHER TALKING!
MY MOTHER!
YOU KNOW WHAT SHE'S LIKE WHEN SHE HASN'T HAD HER COFFEE.

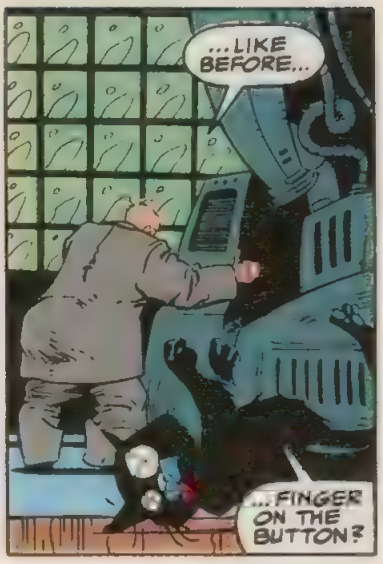
FOR A SIT-COM, THIS PLACE REALLY BITES IT.
NOTHING'S FUNNY ANYMORE!
TIME TO BAIL OUT. LET'S YOU AND ME DITCH.

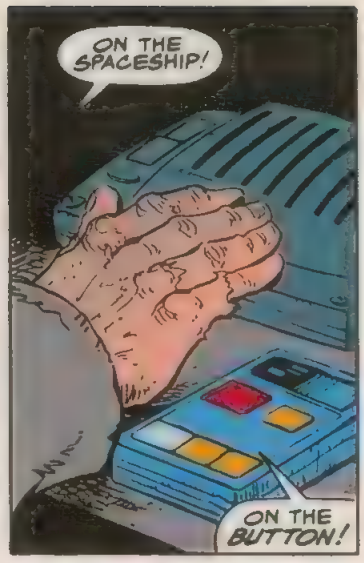

DOES HE HAVE TO GO WITH US?
YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT.
WHERE WE GO, DAMON GOES.

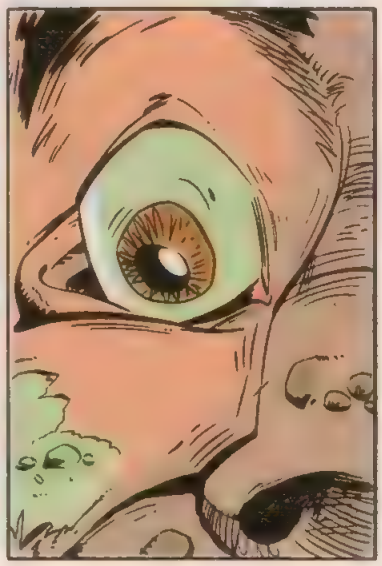
NOW IF I ONLY KNEW WHERE TO LAY MY HANDS ON THAT REMOTE.
?!? THE REMOTE?


YOU MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE IT!









NEXT ISSUE:

CAPTAIN VIDEO JACK PIRATE OF THE HIGH SEAS

epic-grams

LINE & SHADOW

For some time now, there's been a mounting sense of excitement around the Epic offices. Not your normal everyday kind of excitement like when we finally get printed copies of the latest **Moebius** graphic novel or when we finally get a few more pages of finished art on the next **Marshal Law** from **Kevin O'Neill.** No, this excitement grows as we come closer and closer to the launch of something we've never tried before: a series of on-going comics interrelated in theme and continuity. We're calling the whole thing **The Shadow Line Saga.** There are three titles; **Doctor Zero, Power Line,** and **St. George.** These bi-monthly books will tell the story of a race of near super-beings who evolved parallel to but separately from humanity, sharing the earth while living secretly in mankind's shadow. They even call themselves the Shadow race. In the past, they've been the source of many of our myths and legends. The comics begin in the present, when humanity's ability to destroy the earth forces some of those who have lived in secret to emerge from the shadows. They emerge, with varying reactions from humanity and their fellow Shadow Dwellers, as super heroes.

LIVING WITH THE "S" WORD

As I've said in other columns, my original vision of Epic didn't really include doing super hero comics. I felt we were around to break some new and different ground and Marvel had already proven that super hero comics could be done successfully and well. Then too, I may have had something of a personal prejudice against them. I got into comics as a fan of the great EC war, horror and s-f books of the fifties. To an EC fan like me, super hero comics represented everything that was juvenile about the medium, everything that kept comics from the serious acceptance the form deserved. **Stan Lee, Jack Kirby,** and **Steve Ditko** (among others) made me retreat from that arrogance and, better yet, led me to enjoy super hero comics. With their examples to follow, I even found I was able to write them. But, perhaps because for quite a long time super hero comics were just about the only game available to a working professional, I never felt one hundred percent comfortable about doing it. Or about being able to do it well. As time passed, the genre seemed to have been worked for all it was worth. There seemed to be no point in further overdoing a good thing. Certainly not at Epic where a large variety of other types of material were constantly being submitted to us. Then, on top of his **Dark Knight** series for DC, **Frank Miller,** teamed with **Bill Sienkiewicz,** hit us with **Elektra: Assassin.** To my eternal envy, **Alan Moore** and **Dave Gibbons** did **Watchmen** for DC. Luckily, **Pat Mills** and **Kevin O'Neill** came up with **Marshal Law** for us. And sometime in the midst of all this, I began to toy with the notion of the **Shadow Line Saga.** I thought I had it all reasonably well worked out in my head in late summer of '86. Then I began to write and it was February of '87 before the bible was done on the series. But I liked what I had. Super heroes I could live with it . . . and enjoy.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?

Because, having come up with a concept, I turned it over to a lot of people whose work I like and admire. They're doing neat things. Things I wouldn't have thought of, things that really surprise me. And after twenty-four years in comics that's one of the nicest feelings of all. But you don't have to take my word for any of this. By the time you're reading this column, **Doctor Zero** and **Power Line** will already be out and **St. George** will be only a few weeks away. The art for **Doctor Zero** is by **Denys Cowan** and **Bill Sienkiewicz;** on **Power Line,** it's **David Ross** and **Bill McLeod;** and **St. George** is penciled and inked by **Klaus Janson.** All three books, to keep the interrelating aspect really interrelating, are written by **Dan Chichester** and **Margaret Clark.** We've all been excited by what's happened with the Shadow Line series as the books have shaped and developed. Now it's your turn.

—Archie Goodwin

checklist

Oh no! Archie runneth off at the pen again! We'll keep this short & sweet!

MARCH

GROO THE WANDERER #41 — Ever wonder what Groo was like as a child? You may wish we never told you! By Sergio Aragonés with Mark Evanier.

POWER LINE #1 — Second book in *The Shadow Line Saga,* three new inter–related titles (see Doctor Zero & St. George). "Nexus" by D.G. Chichester, Margaret Clark, David Ross and Bob McLeod.

VIDEO JACK #4 — More fun with Jack, Damon, Xenomorphs and the Cleaver family. By Cary Bates, Keith Giffen & Dave Hunt — with special guest artists Stephen DeStafano & Joe Barney.

APRIL

ALIEN LEGION #5 — by Dixon, Stroman & Farmer.
DOCTOR ZERO #2 — by Chichester, Clark, Cowan & Sienkiewicz
GROO THE WANDERER #42 — by Aragonés with Evanier.
MARSHAL LAW #4 — by Mills & O'Neill.
ST. GEORGE #1 — by Chichester, Clark & Janson.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

LAST OF THE DRAGONS — By Carl Potts, Denny O'Neil & Terry Austin.
MOEBIUS 6 — Pharagonesia and other strange tales — by Jean (Moebius) Giraud. *For mature readers.*

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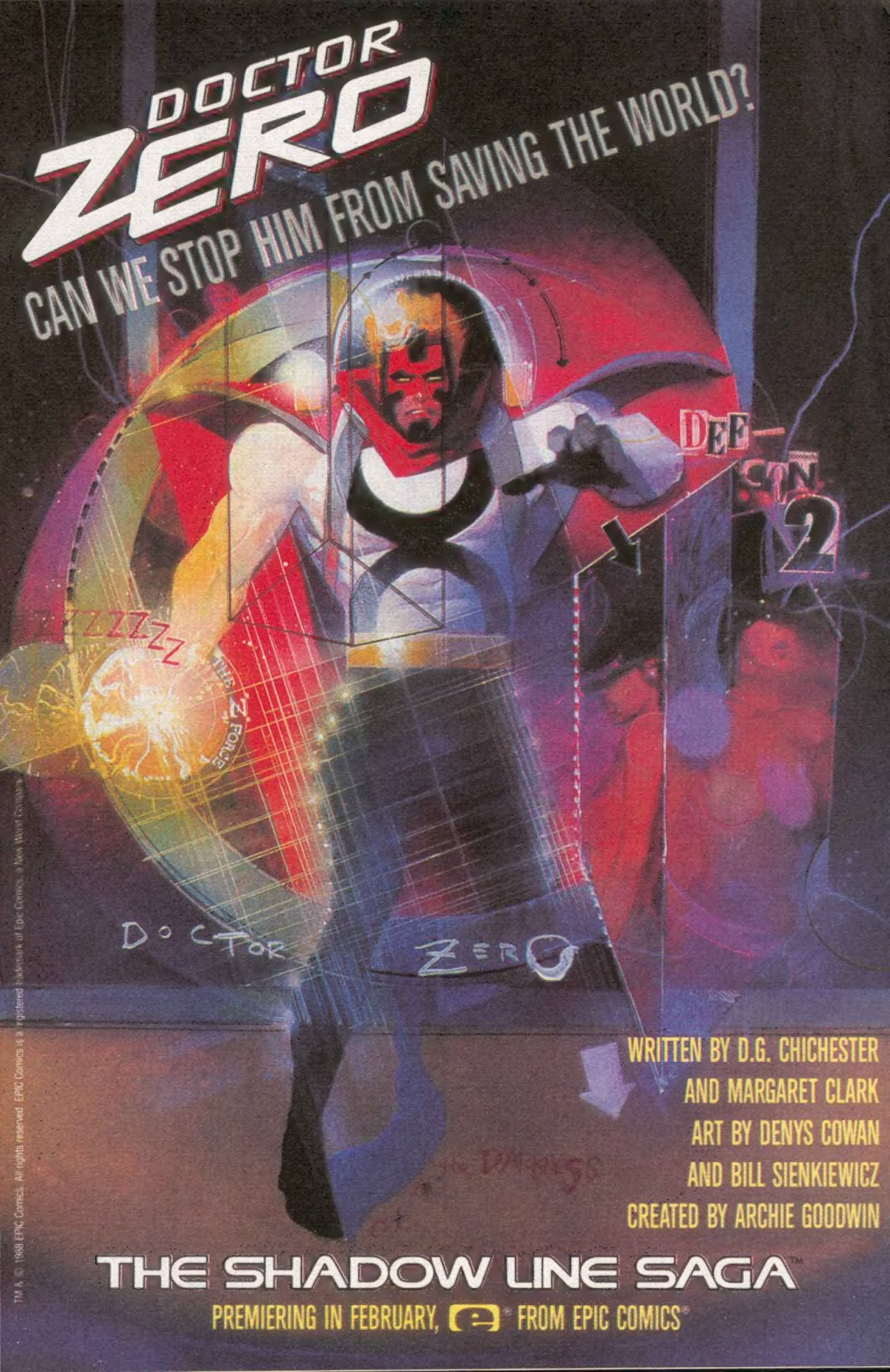
POWERLINE
IN EVERY WAR, THE PRICE OF POWER IS INNOCENCE.
LENORE
VICTOR
UNCLE RIPLEY
WRITTEN BY D.G. CHICHESTER
AND MARGARET CLARK
ART BY DAVID ROSS
AND BOB MCLEOD
CREATED BY ARCHIE GOODWIN
in TO The LIGHT
THE SHADOW LINE SAGA
PREMIERING IN MARCH, FROM EPIC COMICS


DOCTOR ZERO
CAN WE STOP HIM FROM SAVING THE WORLD?
DEF-
CTN
2
ZZZZZZ
THE Z FORCE
DOCTOR ZERO
WRITTEN BY D.G. CHICHESTER
AND MARGARET CLARK
ART BY DENYS COWAN
AND BILL SIENKIEWICZ
CREATED BY ARCHIE GOODWIN
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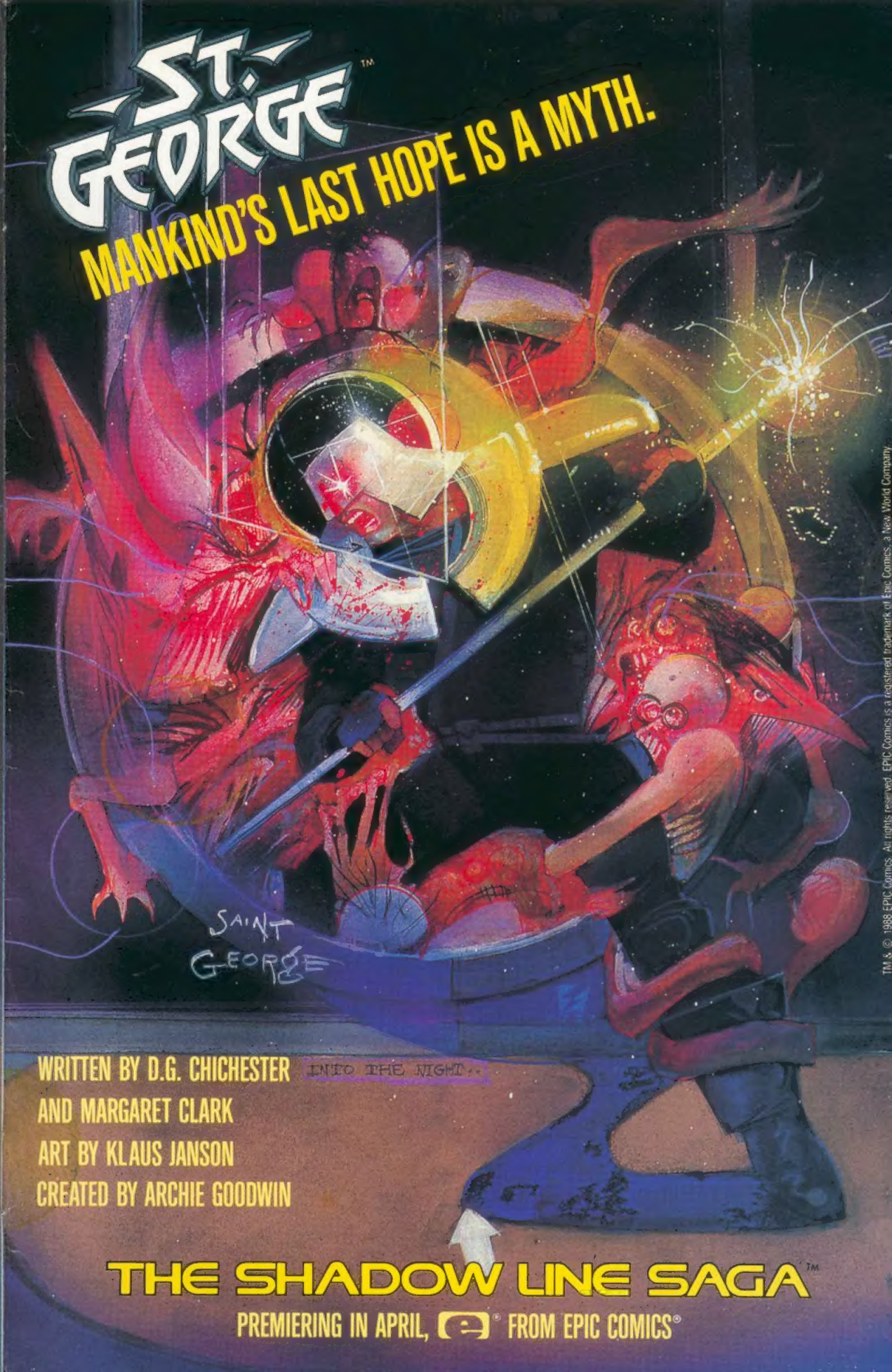
ST. GEORGE™
MANKIND'S LAST HOPE IS A MYTH.
SAINT GEORGE
INTO THE NIGHT..
WRITTEN BY D.G. CHICHESTER
AND MARGARET CLARK
ART BY KLAUS JANSON
CREATED BY ARCHIE GOODWIN
THE SHADOW LINE SAGA™
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THE COLLECTED FANTASIES OF JEAN GIRAUD

MŒBIUS 6™

PHARAGONESIA™

THE SIXTH VOLUME IN
THIS ACCLAIMED SERIES, ON SALE NOW.
WATCH FOR MORE MOEBIUS WORK,
THIS SUMMER, FROM EPIC® COMICS.

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